

Marlborough and Ramsbury Rural District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year 1937.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 18th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District.

I am endeavouring to follow out the lines suggested in circular 1,650 issued by the Ministry of Health to you in October 1937. As modern Public Health matters are mostly under the control of the County Councils, this report must necessarily be confined mainly to statistics and sanitary administration, as only those matters with which you are concerned are dealt with.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Marlborough R.D., 4346
Ramsbury R.D., 6375 } Census 1931
Population—Estimated Mid 1937—9,641.

Area, 94,511 Acres
Rateable Value : £37,473
Sum represented by Penny Rate : £160

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1937, 2955.

Births, 1937.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Birth Rate, 1937.	England and Wales
Live	61	53	114 (6 Illegitimate)	Live 11.8	Live 14.9
Still	3	4	7 (1 „)	Still 0.7	Still 0.6

Birth Rate	1936	1935	1934
England and Wales	13.5	15.15	14.3
	14.8	14.7	14.8

Deaths, 1937. Males, 63. Females, 50. Total, 113.

Death Rate	1937	1936	1935	1934
England and Wales	9.47	9.58	10.69	9.9
	12.4	12.1	11.5	11.8

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 2. Females 3. Total, 5

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	1937	1936	1935	1934
England and Wales	43.8	45	13.4	46.9
	58	59	57	59

The COMPARABILITY FACTOR is this year .81.

Staff. Myself as Medical Officer of Health. Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor : W. Strickland, F.S.I., M.I. M. & Cy. E. Cert. of San. Inst. Additional Sanitary Inspector : W. Pratt, Cert. R.S.I.

Special Legislation. 30/8/34. M. of H. Order investing Marlborough R.D.C. with Urban Powers with respect to fires ; Parts II, III, and IV of Public Health Act, 1925.

Byelaws dealing with Tents, Vans and Sheds were sanctioned by the Ministry of Health on the 19th January, 1937, to come into operation on the 1st March, 1937.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.					Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Small Pox	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	11	9	1
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	13	5	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	4	2	0
Cerebro Spinal	..	..	..	..	1	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
5	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	..	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
20	..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	..	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
35	..	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	..	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	..	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
65 and up	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	..	2	8	3	1	4	2	2	0

No action was taken by me with regard to Tuberculosis employees in the Milk trade.

No action was taken by the Council under Sec. 62 P.H.A., 1925.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever. 11 cases were notified and were spread evenly over the whole year and were in no case, except three cases at Shalbourne, anything but sporadic. One case notified as scarlet fever was diagnosed as measles on arrival at Hospital and this case (in a child age 4 months) unfortunately was hopeless from the commencement and died. This case is returned by the Registrar General as a death from measles, but is entered among my cases of scarlet fever.

Diphtheria. The district was free from this disease during the whole year, in fact no case has been notified since September 1935.

Pneumonia. 13 cases were notified during the year and at least 5 of these were treated either in the Isolation or Savernake Hospitals. The notification of this disease is very complete in this district. Only one of the cases died.

CEREBO SPINAL FEVER. The notified case was in a child 7 weeks old who died early in January 1938.

A case of **ANTHRAX** was admitted to the Isolation Hospital from Savernake where it was diagnosed but it was thought advisable to transfer it to the Isolation Hospital, where the patient reacted well to vaccine treatment and recovered.

ERYSIPELAS. Four cases were notified and two were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS. 10 fresh cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 of non-pulmonary were notified during the year.

There were six deaths assigned to the district of Pulmonary and 2 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis during the period, of these one of each had not been previously notified to me.

Marlborough Joint Isolation Hospital. For general information I give below the cases admitted to the above Hospital during the year.

Scarlet Fever	...	10	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	1
Diphtheria	...	2	Laryngitis	...	1
Influenza and Pneumonia	...	14	Quinsy	...	1
Erysipelas	...	2			—
Anthrax	...	1			33
Para typhoid	...	1			—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

- Water Supply.** (a) **General Source**—Mostly from wells and boreholes sunk in the upper chalk. In Shalbourne and Ham the water is obtained from the greensand. There is a public supply from the chalk at Great Bedwyn and Chisbury and also at Baydon. Work on the boreholes is in progress at Ramsbury in preparation for the proposed water supply for Ramsbury Aldbourne and Chilton Foliat.
- (b) **Extension of mains**—None.
- (c) **Supply satisfactory as to quantity during the year**—The supply has been mainly satisfactory during the year. Owing to the serious shortage of water at Ogbourne St. George during part of the year, it has been decided to investigate the possibilities of providing this village area with a public supply of water.

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations have been made on both the Great Bedwyn and the Baydon Supplies, and the detail results are given below. Both proved excellent waters. In future quarterly samples will be examined bacteriologically in addition to the annual chemical analysis.

GREAT BEDWYN.

Chemical.					Parts per 100,000
Re-action	P.H.	7.2			Alkaline
Saline and Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") Ammonia	...	...	...	...	.001
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (2 hours at 27° C.)	...	...	...	...	0.04
Chlorides	...	...	...	...	1.7
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.8
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	41.
(a) Temporary	...	...	...	...	31.
(b) Permanent	...	...	...	...	10.
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment	...	...	...	...	Nil

Bacteriological.

Total Colonies growing at 37° C. in 48 hours	...	...	...	...	3 per 1 c.c. of water.
Number of Coli-aerogenes organisms	...	...	...	...	Nil per 100 c.c. of water.

Opinion. Both Chemical and Bacteriological examinations show this to be a very pure water. It is suitable for drinking purposes.

BAYDON.

Chemical.					Parts per 100,000
Reaction	P.H.	7.4	...	...	Alkaline
Saline and Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.001
Oxygen absorbed from permang. in 2 hrs. at 27° C.	...	...	...	...	0.04
Chlorides	...	...	...	...	1.4
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.5
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	33.
(a) Temporary	...	...	...	...	27.
(b) Permanent	...	...	...	...	6.
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrates	...	...	...	...	Nil
Microscopical Examination of the Sediment	...	...	...	...	Nil

Bacteriological Examination.

Total Colonies growing at 37° C in 48 hours	..	...	...	...	2 per 1 c.c. of water.
Number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms	...	...	...	...	Nil per 100 c.c. of water.

Opinion. Chemical and Bacteriological examinations show this to be a pure water and fit for drinking purposes.

Private water-pipe supplies.

Although the main supply of the district is shallow wells a certain number of houses have a pipe supply which they get from private sources and the following is a summary of these supplies.

1. Part of Littlecote Estate.
2. Marridge Hill Estate—Ramsbury.
3. Council Supply—Ramsbury.
4. Part of Little Bedwyn Estate.
5. C. Hussey—Grafton.
6. J. Hosier, Wexcombe—Grafton.
7. Bagshot Estate—Shalbourne.
8. S. R. Brown's Estate—Ham.
9. Major Huth—Ham.
10. MacPherson—Buttermere.
11. Fosbury Estate Supply at Oxenwood and Fosbury.
12. T. Hayward—Tidcombe.
13. R. W. Horton—Broad Hinton.
14. F. W. L. Smythe—Berwick Bassett (Proposed supply to proposed Council Houses).
15. Mr. Butler's Supply—Little Avebury.
16. F. Swanton—Overton.
17. F. Poole, Southend—Ogbourne-St.-George.

Drainage and Sewerage. (a) **Existing Schemes**—In Great Bedwyn village there are drainage works for waste water only.

This drainage scheme is only for waste water from sinks and baths, and was put in over 30 years ago by the Marquis of Ailesbury who was then the owner of nearly all the houses in the village. When the houses were sold in 1929 and many owners came into being the Council was compelled to take over the scheme. The scheme has three outfalls and the waste water is treated by land treatment, and works efficiently.

(b) **New Schemes**—None.

(c) **General State**—Most houses have sufficient land attached to them to deal with all liquid refuse. There are a few exceptions.

Closet Accommodation.

(a) Conversions from pail to E.C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
(b) Conversions from E.C. to W.C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
(c) No. of new connections of W.C.'s to sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Refuse Collection. Schemes for the monthly collection of dry domestic refuse have been in operation in the following villages throughout the year :—Baydon, Aldbourne, Ramsbury, Axford, Chilton Foliat, Froxfield, Little Bedwyn and Chisbury, Great Bedwyn, Shalbourne, Fyfield, Lockeridge, West Overton, East Kennett, Avebury, Broad Hinton and Mildenhall. Similar schemes have been arranged for and are now in operation at Ogbourne St. George, Winterbourne Monkton and Berwick Bassett. Owing to the presence of rats in some of the tips a professional rat catcher has been employed to exterminate them.

The total cost per annum is approximately £192 and I would again point out, as I did last year, that the finding of suitable places to dump this refuse is increasingly difficult, and I must repeat that I think the time has now come for the Council to consider the advisability of collecting this refuse by direct labour, and disposing of it adequately. Only a monthly collection is made and only dry refuse is collected, and I do not consider this is sufficient in a good many villages particularly places like Ramsbury and Aldbourne, and I must ask the Council to give consideration to this question which I consider of importance to the public health of the district.

Eradication of bed-bugs.—(a) **Council Houses** :—None. (b) **Other Houses** :—None.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers registered (1937)	..	..	..	123
„ Retail Purveyors registered (1937)	..	..	..	47
„ Certificates issued (Producers) during 1937	..	..	..	0
„ Certificates issued (Retailers) during 1937	..	..	..	0
Approximate number of Cows	..	..	..	4,500

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Registered Slaughter-houses...	...	...	...	5
Number of Licensed Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	2
Notices received of Regular Slaughter	...	...	...	47
Notices received of Casual Slaughter	...	...	...	6
No. of Condemnations	...	...	...	0

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after verbal instructions only
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances	571	217	89	3	49	3	73
Slaughterhouses	35	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knacker's Yards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds	156	42	17	1	10	1	16
Dairies and Milkstores ..							
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. ..	6	1	—	1	—	1	—
Bakehouses	25	3	2	—	2	—	1
Butchers' Shops	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	813	263	108	5	61	5	90

HOUSING.

The Council has now already built 196 houses and 10 are in course of construction ; none have been built without subsidy.

By private enterprise 45 houses were being built during 1937 of which 15 were completed.

Overcrowding.

20 cases of overcrowding have been relieved by action of L.A. There is no case which has become overcrowded again.

Means by which the 20 cases were relieved.

Families who have left the district ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Families moved into Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Member of family has left home	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Building a new bungalow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Two families living in one house and one family has found other accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Additional accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Moved into larger house	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total								20

Number of houses built by the Council to abate overcrowding.

4 in course of erection, 2 at Aldbourne, and 2 at Mildenhall. These are now completed (June, 1937).

HOUSING ACTS, 1909—1936.

Statement of Work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1937, under the above Acts, in the Marlborough and Ramsbury Rural District.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	433
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1399
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	386
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

A.—Proceedings under Sections

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :									
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :									
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(1a)	Section 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
(2a)	Section 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	158
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	147
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.								Nil.
(e)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

Building for the abnormal size of family is expensive, and the ability to pay rent in these cases is usually less than normal. The grants towards erecting new houses in these cases is altogether insufficient.

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.			M.	F.
All Causes	...	...	63	50
1 Typhoid fever, etc.	...	...		1
2 Measles	...	...		1
3 Scarlet fever	...	...		1
4 Whooping cough	...	...		1
5 Diphtheria	...	...	3	1
6 Influenza	...	...		
7 Encephalitis lethargica...	...	...		
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	4	2
9 Respiratory tuberculosis	...	...	2	
10 Other tuberculous	...	...		
11 Syphilis	...	...		
12 General paralysis of the insane, etc.	...	...		
13 Cancer	...	...	10	11
14 Diabetes	...	...	1	
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage	...	...	4	2
16 Heart disease	...	...	11	14
17 Aneurysm	...	...		

Causes of death.			M.	F.
18 Other circulatory	...	...	2	6
19 Bronchitis	...	...	2	1
20 Pneumonia	...	...	1	1
21 Other respiratory	...	...	2	2
22 Peptic Ulcer	...	...	1	1
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...		
24 Appendicitis	...	...	2	
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...		
26 Other diseases of liver,	...	...		
27 Other digestive	...	...	1	3
28 Nephritis	...	...		3
29 Puerperal sepsis...	...	...		
30 Other puerperal	...	...		
31 Congenital causes, etc.	...	...	1	
32 Senility	...	...	2	
33 Suicide	...	...		
34 Other violence	...	...	7	
35 Other defined causes	...	...		

Causes of death.			M.	F.
36 Ill-defined causes	...	...		
Special Causes (included in No. 35)				
Small-pox	...	...		
Poliomyelitis	...	...		
Polioencephalitis	...	...		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—				
Total	...	...	2	3
Legitimate	...	...	2	3
Illegitimate	...	...		
Live Births				
Total	...	...	61	53
Legitimate	...	...	59	49
Illegitimate	...	...	2	4
Stillbirths				
Total	...	...	3	4
Legitimate	...	...	3	3
Illegitimate	...	...		1
Population				9,641

